

Information for patients having a Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy of the Thyroid

You will be having a procedure called a Fine Needle Aspiration Biopsy of your thyroid gland. You are having this procedure because you have one or more thyroid nodules. Although the vast majority of such nodules are benign (90-95%), a small percentage are malignant (5-10%). The purpose of the biopsy is to obtain cellular material which can be studied by the pathology lab. This is the only method which can definitively establish the nature of the nodule. Ultimately, your management will depend on the pathology results. This will take approximately 1 week to be completed.

During this procedure, a needle will be used to obtain material from the nodule(s). Several biopsies will be taken from each nodule that is considered significant. You will feel some pain when this is done, but this is usually minimal. You may experience some bleeding at the site of the biopsy and the area may be sore for several days. You should not use aspirin or similar drugs (Motrin, Naproxen, etc.) for the week prior to the biopsy as these may aggravate any bleeding. Tylenol may be taken. We do perform biopsies under the direction of an ultrasound, which is a painless way of increasing the accuracy of your biopsy and this test will not expose you to any radiation. The entire procedure usually takes less than one-half hour.

If you have any further questions, please contact our office at (631)288-7120.